

CLASSIFICATION

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Opinions of Soviet Personnel~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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25X1X 1. On 16 April 1948 Major Mamontov of the Soviet Information Bureau delivered a lecture in Karlshorst on the current international situation, which was attended by propaganda and agitation personnel of SMA. He indicated that two new German political parties will shortly be formed in the Russian zone, both to be based on leftist elements in the present CDU and LDP. The new parties are expected to refrain from joining the "Antifa" bloc, but only for tactical reasons. There will be no party representing "reactionary elements".

25X1A Comment: This statement was also made by Wilhelm Pieck at a public meeting in Berlin-Wedding on 12 April. 25X1A

2. A representative of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USSR, Sobolev, is at present in Germany collecting material for a report on the effectiveness of propaganda methods in the Soviet Zone. He is expected to recommend the creation of the two new parties, as well as the establishment of a "new democracy government" in Germany.

3. Responsible officials of the SMA believe that the recently introduced control measures have caused a panic among the personnel of the western powers in Berlin. This panic has spread to German politicians co-operating with the British and Americans, so that they are more hesitant in criticizing Soviet policies. American dependents are making haste to leave Berlin, and it is believed that eventually all the western powers will evacuate the city; the assumption is that they are waiting only for a suitable face-saving excuse.

25X1A Comment: The average Soviet officer is not familiar with the agreement under which the western Allies occupied their sectors of Berlin. High-ranking SMA officials believe (as the Russian-sponsored press keeps saying) that the Allies have no legal rights in Berlin, and must evacuate if the ACA is dissolved. Furthermore, the rank and file are much impressed by the results achieved by the Soviet controls, and consider that "powerful capitalist America shakes when the Soviet Union raises its little finger".)

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4. War rumors are on the increase among the Russians in Germany. This is largely because the Russian dependents have placed their own interpretation on the directive regarding the return of children to the USSR for the coming school year. Source reports with some surprise that the majority of Soviet officers believe the Soviet Union would lose if a war should begin in the near future. However, political officers have been instructed to develop the line that the new democracies led by the Soviet Union will not permit "the American fascist imperialists" to start an aggressive war.
5. The Chief of the Political Directorate of the Ministry of the Armed Forces of the USSR, Col. Gen. Shikin, has again issued a reprimand to Maj. Gen. Andreev, Chief of the Political Directorate for SIA, because of the unsatisfactory political indoctrination and conduct of Soviet personnel in Germany. Every month there are some thirty or thirty-five "extraordinary events" (apparently cases of defection to the British or Americans). The number of "ordinary events" (drunkenness, robbery, absence without leave, etc.) remains excessive.

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